



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inmate Death at FCI Phoenix

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, July 2, 2020, inmate Laura Ann Palpallatoc tested positive for COVID-19 at the satellite camp adjacent to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Phoenix in Phoenix, Arizona and was immediately placed in medical isolation and provided treatment. On Tuesday, July 28, 2020, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, she was converted to a status of recovered following the completion of medical isolation and presenting with no symptoms.

On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, staff discovered Ms. Palpallatoc unresponsive and promptly initiated life-saving measures. Staff requested emergency medical services (EMS) and life-saving efforts continued. Subsequently, Ms. Palpallatoc, who had pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by EMS personnel.

Ms. Palpallatoc was a 67-year-old female who was sentenced in the Western District of Washington to a 50-month sentence for Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance. She had been in custody at FPC Phoenix since March 20, 2019.

The satellite camp at FCI Phoenix is a minimum-security facility that currently houses 180 female offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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